



# Newsletter

of the

## Harrisburg Chapter

of the

### *American Statistical Association*

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**Tuesday Evening February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 Milton Loyer, Ph.D. will speak  
 on  
 Statistical Paradox  
 at the Elephant and Castle Pub

### Plate Expectations: *A Dickens of a Problem*

By Milton Loyer

Batting averages and Simpson's Paradox set the background for a non-intuitive statistical result produced by real data collected at the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center in Biglerville, Adams County. Of more than a decade of thousands of similar analyses, only one data set has produced the paradoxical results in question. Initial professional reactions from those who have seen the data analysis range from "This is just another example of Simpson's Paradox" and "This is not possible" to "The experimental design is so flawed that no analysis is appropriate." This non-technical presentation will demonstrate that this new paradox is different from (and mutually exclusive to) Simpson's Paradox, give the mathematical conditions under which it can occur, and present arguments for the validity of the design and

analysis used. The presentation also raises some broad statistical concerns and discusses the possibility of the paradox arising in other contexts.

Please join us on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Elephant and Castle Pub located on Limekiln road in New Cumberland (just off I-83).

### Upcoming in March:

**On March 5<sup>th</sup>**, as part of our Distinguished Statisticians Lecture Series The ASA along with Penn State Harrisburg And The School of Health Evaluation Sciences will host a Lecture by Douglas Osheroff, Nobel Laureate in Physics. *On the Nature of Discovery in Physics, How I won the Nobel Prize*  
 The lecture will take places at 1:00 pm in the Olmsed Auditorium at Penn State Harrisburg.  
 Douglas Osheroff, Stanford University, Physics Department is a co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physics.

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**On March 10<sup>th</sup>**, judging for the York County Science Fair will take place at the Penn State York Campus in York Pa.

**On Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>**, judging for the Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair will be at Dickinson College in Carlisle Pa.,

The Harrisburg Chapter of the American Statistical Association would like to once again provide "special awards" to the Junior High and High School students demonstrating the "**Best Application of Statistical Methods.**" in their science fair projects. This endeavor requires that the judges review all of the projects and determine the best use of statistics. We require at least four judges for each Science Fair.

If you would like to help or would like more information you can contact John Rinehart [JohnMRinehart@alumni.pitt.edu](mailto:JohnMRinehart@alumni.pitt.edu) or Robert Dewar [rfdewar@earthlink.net](mailto:rfdewar@earthlink.net)

*Executive Committee*

- John Rinehart - President
- Sandra Kingan - President-elect
- Jim Lehman - Secretary
- Haddon Carryer - Treasurer
- Winston Richards - Council of Chapters ASA
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- Robert Dewar - Past President
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- Delray Schultz - Past President
- YOU - if you are willing to help

**Membership Application**

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**Member, National ASA YES/NO**

**Would you like information on National ASA Membership?**

**Dues for annual membership in the Harrisburg Chapter of the ASA are \$10. Checks payable to: ASA-Harrisburg Chapter**

**Return application to:  
Haddon Carryer, Treasurer  
ASA-Harrisburg Chapter  
268 South West Street  
Carlisle, PA 17013**